## Struggle

By ALBERT PARKER

We think that it will be generally agreed that the shabbiest Uncle Tom sell out of the whole electoral campaign was pulled off two weeks ago at the convention of the United Government Employees held in Washington. (This organization, led by Edgar G. Brown, claims a membership of 30,000 Negro federal employees. It also claims to speak in the interests of the Negro people. Both these claims are grossly exaggerated.)

For it was at this convention that the United Government Employees won the "honor" of being the first (and perhaps the only) colored organization in the country to go on record endorsing the vicious Jim Crow policies announced by Roosevelt a half month earlier for the armed forces of the United States.

### ENDORSE SEGREGATION

First they endorsed the principle of segregation in the Army. Then they went further. They asked that this principle be extended, that more Jim Crow army divisions be established. The only thing they asked in return was that colored officers, instead of white, be assigned to these

Not satisfied with segregation in the land forces, the men responsible for the adoption of this position by the U.G.E. then asked that it be extended to the Navy.

In the Navy Negroes can become only waiters and cooks. In this way they are segregated into one part of the ship. Instead of protesting this and demanding that they be permitted into all branches of the service, they asked instead for a separate battleship, cruiser, submarine, destroyer and airplane carrier "to be eventually manned and officered by Negroes."

In this way they ask for complete segregation! They aren't satisfied with half-way measures.

Negroes are also barred from the naval academy. Instead of demanding an end to this and equal rights for Negroes at the academy, they asked instead for a separate "Annapolis" in the Virgin Islands.

Of course, it isn't too hard to figure out why the convention adopted this position. They knew what discrimination and segregation mean to the Negro people-but they weren't thinking of the Negro people. They were thinking about themselves, and their jobs, and their salaries as government employees.

By telling the colored people, "This is a good thing for us; all we need now is more of it and more colored officers and our problems are solved," they attempted to keep in office the Admin-

### WHAT IT REALLY MEANS

But putting aside for a minute the sordid motives behind it, let's examine the proposal on its own feet and see how well it stands up.

What people who support such proposals don't understand is this: The policy of discrimination and segregation in the armed forces places a stamp of approval on discrimination and segregation in civilian life.

When Roosevelt endorsed segregation in the Army, he said in effect: Yes, Negroes are not like other people, they should be placed off on a side, they are inferior, and they should be separated from white men in the Army just as they are separated from them outside the Army.

In other words, the Jim Crow policy in the Army is based on the theories of "inferiority of Negroes" and the "necessity for white supremacy." Let Mr. Edgar Brown ask any Southern lyncher or Ku Kluxer and they'll tell him that's what it is!

Roosevelt, by announcing this policy for the Army, says to the owners of industry, to big business, to relief officials, to movie and restaurant proprietors, and even to some reactionary labor. fakers: Sure, go ahead Jim Crowing them, the government is doing the same!

And Brown and his supporters are themselves now in the position of saying: Roosevelt is right, we don't deserve equal rights, we should be segre-

Those who support this position now cannot complain about discrimination in civilian life either. If a reactionary school board in the North wants to send colored children to separate schools, how will Brown be able to argue against it? All he could do is weakly say: All right, but don't forget to give us colored teachers in the Jim Crow schools.

### LIVES OF NEGROES INVOLVED

As long as the Negroes are separated from the white soldiers, it is very easy for the laborhating officer caste in charge of the Army to pick them out for special assignment and work: as labor battalions, digging trenches and latrines, and as suicide squads, for the most dangerous work, where men's lives are thrown away cheaply.

This was the practice in the last war, and it will be the practice in this war, as long as the officer caste controls the Army, and as long as Negroes are in separate regiments.

Having Negro officers for these separate regiments will not change matters in this respect at all. They won't be able to prevent choice of their regiments for dangerous assignments at all.

Consequently, in spite of who the officers are, separate regiments will not protect the Negro soldier from the most important discrimination of all: a high proportion of assignments that

endanger his life.

Those who want to protect the Negroes from insult and discrimination must join the struggle for union control of training. This struggle alone will abolish Jim Crowism in the Army, will create the conditions whereby Negroes will be able to enter any regiment, free of discrimination, and officered by workers, black and white, selected by the soldiers themselves.

# Nat Turner Rebellion Anniversary

Negro Slave Led Revolt

By WILLIAM DIXON

November 11, 1940 marks the 109th anniversary of the hanging of Nat Turner, Negro slave who organized an insurrection against slavery in Virginia. Although put down in blood, this insurrection instilled fear in the hearts of the slaveholders of that area for the next 30 years, and inspired the slaves and abolitionists to carry on their struggle.

Nat Turner was born in Southampton County, Virginia, October 2, 1800, the son of a native of Af- Negroes. rica. In his youth lie was impressed with the religious customs and superstitions of the neighborhood, and when he was given perread and write, he trained himself to become a preacher.

### SAW NEED, TO ORGANIZE

Whathhe learned from reading and what he experienced in his own life convinced him that he that the only solution was to organize themselves to fight for their freedom. He felt that he it was his mission to lead his like the other Negro rebels of his ing fiercely for freedom. time in that his philosophy was queer mixture of superstitious ORGANIZE UPRISING belief and a practical understand-

changed masters several times and tion.

predicting that some day Negroes would be free.

### INSPIRED BY NEGRO VICTORIES

A number of the white refugees by the stories he heard from them out regard to age or sex. about the victories of the armed

himself. In all probability he remission by his master to learn to cognized that the problem he was interested in could never be solv- words . . . " ed by individual action alone, that

When his friends among the and his race were oppressed and said that he had a vision to return "black spirit" were in combat and for action. people in the struggle. He was that the "black spirit" was fight-

Finally in July, 1831, he and ing that nothing could help the four other slaves, Nelson Wilslaves but their own organized liams, Samuel Frances, Henry efforts to end slavery. As a res- Porter and Hark Travis, met toult, he was able to utilize the gether secretly and began to plan superstitions of the Negroes in the details for an uprising that arcusing them for the fight for would begin at his master's home.

once was severely whipped for The plan was to kill the white had led the American revolution

occupants of the nearby planta- -for freedom, peace and the right tions, take their arms, and or- to live as human beings. ganize the slaves as they marched

from plantation to plantation. lowing speech to his men:

### "DEEDS-NOT WORDS"

"Friends and brothers, we are from the successful revolution of about to commence a great work San Domingo had settled in the tonight! Our race is to be delivthem, and there is reason to be-appointed us the men to do His lieve that Nat, who was able to biddings; and let us be worthy freely move about the neighbor- of our calling. I am told to slay hood as a preacher, was inspired all the whites we encounter, with-

"We have no arms or ammuni At one time he escaped from the homes of our oppressors . . dom. Ours must be deeds, not

For three days, the insurgents the job was still to organize and struck at one point after another, burning the homes and killing the was a servant of God, and that the "white spirit" and the cation that they too were ready being drafted "for a war for de-

> It is also notable that although it was their intention to kill every white they met, they made one interesting exception: a family of non-slaveholding whites.

### SLAVEHOLDERS DIE OF FRIGHT

They were finally overwhelmed by tremendous forces, who mowed them down and hunted them in Joseph Travis, and then spread the woods until every last rebel He not only knew how to read, throughout the area. There was was captured. Turner was tried but he had some knowledge of vague talk about setting up a and convicted and calmly went mechanics, and experimented in Negro government, but most of to his death on November 11, decmaking pottery, paper and gun- their attention was paid to the laring he felt no guilt, that he powder. But in spite of this he practical details of the insurrec- had only been trying to lead the slaves to freedom as Washington

But this was not the end of it. Fear had struck into the hearts The night before they started of the slave-owning aristocracy, CAMPAIGN the' uprising on August 21, Nat and everywhere they looked, they is reported to have made the fol- saw the figure of Nat Turner arising to plague them. They murd-lism itself, the Trotskyist candithat Negroes would not become swear their allegiance to the syscounty, bringing their slaves with ered from slavery, and God has preachers in the future. It was tem of private enterprise. All reported that even after Turner express a fervent beilef in the was hanged, three slaveholders in ability of capitalism ultimately to far-away North Carolina died of do away with the social evils of

### REVOLT CONTINUES

spirit of revolt that he symbolhis master and after being at Remember that ours is not a war ized was carried on by the slaves capitalistic system of production large for a month returned by for robbery, nor to satisfy our pas- and the foes of slavery. The slaves for profit and that no measure sions; it is a struggle for free were finally emancipated after a short of the overthrow of the probloody struggle in which they bore fit system itself can end them." arms and carried on in Nat Turner's heroic spirit.

Today the struggle of Nat Turner is still being conducted-this believe in a fight for the immemasters who had oppressed them, time against the monstrous in- diate relief of the suffering of slaves asked him why he had regathering support as they went justices and discrimination of a the exploited workers and farmers. turned, his reply was typical. He along, but slowly. Their numbers decaying capitalist system that increased to more than 200. It is denies the Negroes equal rights an epoch of wars and struggles and wait for his "sign"-a signal significant that none of the slaves in peace time and subjects them and conflicts. Before his tragic that would summon him and whom they reached refused to to segregation and insult in the death at the hands of Stalin's others to action. He also said take up arms with them, an indi- armed forces into which they are GPU murderer, the great revolumocracy."

> We honor the heroism and militancy of Nat Turner on the 109th in hand." anniversary of his death, and we carry on his traditions in these ers, black and white, to learn the military arts, to train themselves how to fight for freedom, to strug-

Join the Socialist Workers Party

## Boss War Brutally Exploits Women Workers in Factories

In a world today torn with soexploitation, and death in the boss noise, the force, the flare." war affect every worker's home HEAVY MANUAL LABOR the woman worker becomes as imthe working woman.

The first world war proved this: kinds of serious complications of and men are needed for the bat- ical care was at the disposal of fine ladies never did a stitch of has been subjected to overwork tlefields, women are forced into these women workers. the factories to "carry on the

In 1914, when women were suggested as "non-combatant" soldiers, Lord Kitchener said, "Womens' work will not be wanted. Our sanitary, sometimes no lavatories men must fight and our women must knit." Three years later a million and a quarter English there were ten thousand munitions factories employing mainly womemployed 8,000. Other branches of the English government employing women were: Admiralty, 3,000; Agriculture, 84,000; Munifice alone employed forty to fifty thousand in everything from drivers and mechanics in France to clerks and gardeners at home.

### THROWN INTO FACTORIES

Women heretofore had been eione of the "better-class" families ily on the ration cards. Porridge of England. Overnight they were instead of bacon and eggs, rice and night shifts.

At dawn one could see the pitiful figure of the woman worker leaving Woolwick Arsenal after spending twelve hours under artificial light and foul air. Her eyes were bloodshot, senses stunned and flesh numb from the the day.

throughout the world, the role of In munftion factories they were required to lift 50 pound boxes portant as that of the soldiers. of material and in sugar factories, The boss war monger makes no 60 and 80 pound bags of sugar. distinction between the sexes. As No consideration was given to he makes a place for the working their physical condition. The fact man on the battlefield, so he that from this hard unnatural lamakes a place in the factory for bor some women would not be able to bear children or that all

> In the factories they were forced to eat in canteens where the food was of two classes. One for the forewoman and one for the worker. Conditions were very un-

factories. A human being can stand so much and no more. So it was in England. In November 1917 with these women. In one great a year men on the "Defense plete hospitalization. arsenal complaints in the canteen and workshop went unheeded unen. The Birmingham "shop" alone til a "real row" was raised. many other real rows that were kicked up by the working women, cipal Trams, 10,000. The War Of- and many more women carried out on stretchers after being beaten by the police, which were never recorded.

After toiling all day under such miserable conditions the English mother came home tired and worn only to face another one of her ther housewives or "hired out" to many problems: Feeding her famthrown into the factories. This and macaroni instead of meat, was wartime (1915-18) and work- margarine for butter, lentils as ing conditions were horrible. The filler in nearly every dish, practiwork day was twelve hours, day cally no fruits, no milk for the baby. Because of the shortage of milk mothers were urged to nurse their babies until 9-10 months old. No one told her how she was to get the strength and milk to nurse

her child. who is accustomed to rule in the care.

munitions factory in Hades, Eng- for two years at 10 shillings or child? Rest assured not the boss land, employing women workers, 12 shillings was considered quite government of England. She was cial strife and war, when hunger, "Dante's Inferno is nothing to the enough for these ladies, whose forced to go to work as soon as pluck, endurance and gentle in she left the bed. Whom did she fluence have done much to win leave her child with? A neighbor,

the most work from his workers. received improper care and was These "better-class" ladies are subjected to all kinds of disease quite capable; yes, they are accustomed to wringing every ounce protests and complaints, the Brit of work from their servants in ish government was forced to no scruples about overworking the mother. "No woman could be emwomen in the factory. It takes ployed within four weeks of giv-When wars are fought on a mass their reproductive organs could de. no more training to drive a work- ing birth to the child." How genscale with modern equipment un- velop was not even considered by er in the factory than it does in erous! Any doctor will tell us der the present industrial system the bosses. Very little or no med- the home. The fact that these that a mother, especially one who their not understanding the do any strenuous labor for at multiple problems of factory least two months after giving bother the British imperial- same "saviours of civilization," ists when they appointed these who tried to crush the Russian

Don't be surprised if you find Boris Duke, Brenda Frazier, or maybe Ethel DuPont Roosevelt, as had experience with their servfactories are "blessed" with such

### DEATH RATE RISES

evelt Jr.'s as their officers.

vide for her? This was wartime factories. and no time for sentimentalism. Prospective mothers worked un- of 1914 to fall on deaf ears. Let der the same conditions and same us learn the lesson from our Eng- should read: "Such a program hours during pregnancy as be- lish sisters and the American would place the workers in the fore. Many of them were forced to woman of yesterday. Don't per- position of being fully able to dework right up to the period of mit the boss politician and class- fend their own interests and ARISTOCRATIC FOREWOMEN confinement. They had no other collaborationist labor leaders to would be the best guarantee The British were well aware of means of livelihood. Many of them wipe out the horrible memories against fascism, either the fornight's labor. At home undernour- the terrible exploitation of these had other children at home to sup- of the first world war with fancy eign or native brand." ished children, crowded rooms, and women workers who were driven port. In some factories as soon phrases and sugared words. a day of housework awaited her. into the factories through econo- as a woman was known to be In a report of the British Min- mic necessity. The government pregnant she was discharged be- and wives to send their men to istry Investigating Committee we had dragged their husbands and cause she couldn't "turn out the "defend democracy and civilizaread: "Women's day begins at sons to war. No, the British gov- work." Maternity hospitals were tion from the barbaric Huns," let 4:00 or 3:30 A.M. She reports for ernment took no chances when it few, many women were forced to us fling into their faces the barwork at 6:00 A.M.; works four- came to appointing forewomen give birth to their babies in the baric treatment women received teen hours. It usually takes her (watchdogs) in the factories. workhouse. Skilled nursing and from these same boss war mongtwo hours to get home. She never Ethel Tweedie, English writer, mid-wifery was not available. The ers in the last war. Let us pledge gets to bed, before 10:00 or 10:30 (reactionary) in her book, Woman death rate in childbirth rose, es- that tomorrow we shall tear from P. M. Her housing is inade- and Soldier, says "The best sort pecially among women bearing our backs the yokes of these quate." Married women preferred of forewoman-and they have 100 their first child. As the prospec- bosses and fight along with our to work at night so that they to 400 girls under them-are the tive mother received no pre-natal men for a free society, a society

relative, or other children of the The boss knows who can get family. Most of the time the child

Finally because of increasing the home. Naturally they had pass laws favorable to the young work in their lives, let alone and under-nourishment, should not work and machinery, did not birth to a child. These were the "better-class" watchdogs in the fac- Revolution, which gave prospec whatsoever being provided in the tories during the first world tive mothers in Russia a vacation three months before and three And all these ladies ask is ten months after giving birth to a or twelve shillings, like the dollar child, with regular wages and com-

### BOSSES RESPONSIBLE

The irony of all this is that the responsibility for the inhuman sitioned." We'll wager there were your forewoman in the factory treatment given the worker-mothduring World War No. 2. They er bearing a "war baby" in 1914 will know how to handle you if lies with the same British boss you complain about wages and who today is responsible for the hours and speed-up. They have murder of thousands of these same "war babies" who have been ants. While the women in the drafted into a war to defend the a misleading sentence in the story fine forewomen their husbands perialism. As you are born, so trol of military training which we will be equally "blessed" in the shall you die! Yes, every woman reprinted in last week's issue army with the James Cromwells, worker of England set a man free from the Northwest Organizer. Tommy Manvilles, and F. D. Roos- to become a soldier in the last The sentence, part of the Organ-And what of the young mother- ready the boss class of the United fully able to defend their own into-be whose husband was at war? States is drafting the men into terests and would be the best Did the British government pro- the army and the women into the guarantee to capitalism against

Let us not permit these lessons tive brand."

could do their housework during better-class ladies. The aristocrat care, so she received no post-natal for working men and women!in England, Germany, Britain and An English writer describes a household. Twelve hour shifts Who supported her and the these United States.

(Continued from Page 1)

ered hundreds of slaves who had date continued, " . . . Both Rooshad nothing to do with the up- evelt and Willkie, as well as the rising, and they were so panicky lesser political lights of the Dethat they took steps to see to it mocratic and Republican parties, unemployment and poverty-of want in the midst of plenty. These capitalist politicians cannot or Turner was hanged, but the will not understand that these social evils have their roots in the

Dr. Carlson explained that this program did not mean that the Socialist Workers Party did not

"This is an age of militarism, tionary thinker, Leon Trotsky, wrote 'All the great questions will be decided in the next epoch, arms

"It follows, therefore," conti nued Dr. Carlson, "that workers troubled times by urging the work- and farmers should avail themselves of the opportunity to obtain military training. Not only must American workers and farmers gle for trade union control of mili- learn to protect themselves from tary training so that they will be the Hitlers and Mussolinis of able to defend their own inter- Europe, but even more important ests and not those of their op- they must be prepared to defend themselves from the menace of fascism at home."

The speaker then pointed to the lessons of the French defeat. "Petain, Weygand. Laval and the other democratic leaders of yesterday, upon whom the French people depended for protection from the foreign fascists, capitulated before Hitler and established the present brutal Petain regime under which the French people are oppressed both by Hitler and by their own dictators. The only effective defense against fascism is the seizure of power by the workers and the establishment of

socialist society." In a withering attack on the philosophy of pacifism within the labor movement, Comrade Carlson showed the ridiculousness of the workers hesitating to use arms in defense of their lives and interests .She exposed the fact that capitalism, against which these pacifists do not protest. daily destroys with the utmost brutality thousands of the poor and weak.

## Dr. Ruby Dies

The Chicago Local of the SWP regretfully says farewell to one of its oldest and most loval sympathizers, DOCTOR JONAS RUBY, who died on October 20 of a cerebral hemorrhage.

Dr. Ruby's selfless devotion to the needs of the working class extended beyond the field of his medical contribution into the sphere of politics where he identified himself from the earliest days with the struggle. of the Left Opposition and the Fourth Internationalist move-

### Correction

Our attention has been called to brutal profit system of British Im- of the need for trade union conwar, and so it shall be in the izer's editorial comment, reads: second world war in England, "Such a program would place the France, Germany, U. S. A. Al- workers in the position of being fascism, either the foreign or na-

This a misprint. The sentence

EXTRA Boro Park Social

OUR NEW HEADQUARTERS 3623 - 15 Ave. Brooklyn Dine, Dance and Drink Beer

FUN and PRIZES

# Bad, Medical Report Shows

By LYDIA BYDELL

A recent highly interesting survey, based on the latest influx of volunteers for the army, has been reported in the pages of the Journal of the American Medical Association for October 12, 1940, by Dr. George E. Leone, captain of the U.S. Army medical corps and medical inspector for recruiting in the 2nd corps area, including New York City. During the months of June, July and August of this year 6,743 unmarried young men between the ages of 18 and 35, all part of an original enlistment into the Regular Army, were examined under his supervision. All of them were eighth grade graduates and many had completed high school and college courses; none had ever been convicted of a felony. These facts indicate that the social level represented by these men was by no means the lowest or poorest in America. Of this number, 2,195 or about one-third were rejected because of physical deficiencies which made them poor material to send onto the battle-

Of the men rejected, the largest number (516, or 23% of the total) were turned down because of the condition of their teeth. Among physicians, as among horse-traders, it is commonly agreed that the condition of health of a subject's teeth is a reliable criterion of his general health. The appalling condition of the teeth of these citizens of New York can be fathomed when one learns that the requirements for acceptance in the Army are ridiculously low. A man must have a minimum of three masticating teeth above and three below. This means twelve teeth to a head, even if the teeth have been filled. And it means also, if teeth are accepted as a gauge of health, that a man can be less than 50% par and still be good enough for the Army.

### DISEASES OF POVERTY

Next in order of frequency came disqualifications because of bad eyes. Twenty-one percent of those rejected (479 men) were turned down because they suffered from eye conditions which the report admits could have been avoided if attention had been paid them earlier in life. Most of the recruits did not wear glasses and had no suspicion that their eyes were not good.

A significant commentary on the widely publicized report that present recruits are on an average two inches taller than those of the last war is the fact that 15% (308 men) of the recruits examined were rejected because of stature deficiencies. Most of these were found to be underweight for their height, a condition which is especially alarming to military specialists, since it indicates a fundamental lack of resistance and marks such men as the first to break down physically when they come up against the rigors of military life. A large number of these men showed such signs of undernourishment that they were potential candidates for tuberculosis.

Complaint is made that much of the physical debility of American workers springs from their faulty diet, made up in too large part of potato and flour starches and sugar, which provide surface energy and an unhealthy fatness but give an inadequate supply of the minerals and vitamins necessary for real strength and resistance. If any of these military physicians cared to go further into statistics they might find that the incidence of starches and sugars in the diet of workers has a direct relation to the level of wages on the one hand and the price of various types of foods on the other.

### BOURGEOIS PRESS ALARMED

The bourgeois press, notably the New York Times, in commenting on the findings reported by Dr. Leone are properly alarmed at what the survey has disclosed. They are fearful of the possibility that the army now being created may be made up of men who are not physically equipped to stand up and take it as a good American should. They grasp at the traditional straw when they point out that these men are, after all, volunteers most probably largely from the unemployed ranks and therefore representative of a lower level of living than the normal crosssection of the American population. The direct opposite is however the probability.

Dr. Leone himself records that these young men had volunteered for Army service because they had "thought themselves physically fit to fight for the defense of their country." They were surprised and annoyed at the rejections, having considered themselves, in comparison to other men of their acquaintance, good physical specimens. It is quite obvious that men suffering from pulmonary or venereal diseases or displaying noticeable skeletal defects simply do not normally volunteer for Army service.

Military circles express a vain hope when they anticipate a higher physical level among the mass of conscripts who will soon be called for training. Only then will the real ravages of malnutrition and bad social environment become noticeable. Then we shall begin to hear the real statistics on tuberculosis and pelagra, on syphilis, on bone deformities and rotten teeth. Then it will become clear even to the officer caste that the penalty for the last decade of intense depression has been paid for by a serious weakening of the physique of the potential American soldier.

Under a workers and farmers government, not only would an imperialist war have been avoided, but the present generation of young men in a land of such abundance as America would have enjoyed food and decent living conditions that would have given them the healthiest bodies in the world.